

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 05430 180008Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15

STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01

DOE-11 SIL-01 /118 W

-----082325 180831Z /13

R 180007Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6562

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

ALL EC CAPITALS

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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PASS STR, ALSO USMTN, USEEC ALSO EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, FR, EC

SUBJECT: BLEACHED PULP ANTI-DUMPING COMPLAINT

REF: (A) PARIS 4690; (B) PARIS 4254; (C) PARIS 3166

1. SUMMARY. ON FEBRUARY 17 MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
TRADE EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN, AT A POLITICAL LEVEL, ON
THE BLEACHED PULP SITUATION. THE CASE IS EXPECTED TO
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GO FORWARD WITH AT LEAST PROVISIONAL DUTIES TO BE
APPLIED BEFORE THE END OF MARCH.

2. ON FEBRUARY 17 EMBASSY COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR CALLED
ON PIERRE ACHARD AT LATTER'S REQUEST. ACHARD, FOREIGN
TRADE MINISTER ROSSI'S CHIEF OF STAFF, EXPOSED THE
GOF'S CONCERNS ON THE BLEACHED PULP SITUATION. ACHARD

AND MARC TESSIER (DREE) OUTLINED THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN TERMS SIMILAR TO THOSE PREVIOUSLY EXPOSED BY THE INDUSTRY (REFTELS). ACCORDING TO ACHARD, THE EC BLEACHED PULP INDUSTRY REQUIRES A PRICE OF APPROXIMATELY \$320/METRIC TON TO MEET VARIABLE COSTS. THEY CLAIM ACTUAL PRICES FOR IMPORTS FROM U.S. (C.I.F.) CURRENTLY AVERAGE \$280/TON FOR HARDWOOD BLEACHED PULP AND \$318/TON FOR SOFTWOOD BLEACHED PULP. DATA GATHERED THROUGH THE IMPORT LICENSE PROGRAM INDICATES THAT CANADIAN AND SCANDINAVIAN PRICES ARE HIGHER. THE FRENCH COMPLAINT CLAIMS THAT, BASED ON U.S. INTERNAL PRICES, PRICES (C.I.F.) ON THE EC MARKET SHOULD BE \$315-\$330/TON FOR HARDWOOD PULP IMPORTS AND \$350-\$370 FOR SOFTWOOD PULP IMPORTS.

3. ACHARD INFORMED US THAT THE COMPLAINT WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE EC ANTI-DUMPING COMMITTEE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 27. THE GOF EXPECTS THE COMMISSION TO OPEN AN INVESTIGATION REGARDLESS OF OBJECTIONS RAISED BY OTHER MEMBER STATES. THEY EXPECT AT LEAST PROVISIONAL DUTIES TO BE IMPOSED WITHIN ONE MONTH OF THE OPENING OF THE CASE SINCE THE COMMISSION ALREADY HAS THE MAJOR ELEMENTS IN HAND. IN JUSTIFICATION OF EXCLUSION OF SCANDINAVIANS, ACHARD INFORMED US THAT THE SWEDISH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY ASSURED THE GOF THAT THE SWEDES WILL RAISE THEIR PRICES IF THE NORTH AMERICANS RAISE THEIRS.

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4. COMMENT: WE INFORMED ACHARD THAT THERE WAS LITTLE THAT THE USG COULD DO ON THIS QUESTION. HE COMMENTED THAT ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD SERVE TO RAISE PRICES WOULD HELP. THE GOF IS AWARE OF THE LIMITATIONS ON USG ACTION IN THIS AREA. HOWEVER, THEY WERE PROBABLY MAKING POINTS WITH THEIR INDUSTRY, THE EC COMMISSION, AND OTHER MEMBER STATE BY CALLING US IN ON A LOW POLITICAL LEVEL.

MYERSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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